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INSPECTION NOTES

CODSEN CORPORATION:
142nd and Paxton Avenue
Calumet City

Industrial Waste
(032-H-03)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
STATE OF ILLINOIS

DATE:

November 4, 1971

TO:

Supervisor, DesPlaines Surveillance
Section, DWPC

INTERVIEWED:

Jerry N. Roach, Manager, Engineering
and Maintenance

A visit was made to inspect the industrial waste treatment facilities at Cosden Oil and Chemical Corporation in Calumet City on the south bank of the Little Calumet River. The following information was obtained:

- 1. Plant is involved in plastics production with major product being polystyrene. Processing includes polyethylene emulsions with Hydrochloric Acid additions.*
- 2. Waste treatment includes equalization and lime neutralization followed by settling ponds. Since polystyrene is non-biodegradable, the settling ponds are followed by chemically aided clarification to enhance suspended solid removal.*
- 3. Clay and alum are added to the clarifier for solid removal.*
- 4. Final effluent discharge is to MSDGC sewer system.*
- 5. At the plant extremity, a storm water runoff ditch was noted. Standing water, with abundant algae growth, was contained in the ditch. A sluice gate controls discharge from this ditch through a four foot diameter sewer with the Little Calumet. The purpose of this discharge system was not known by Jerry Roach, but he assured that it is never used. Runoff from tank car loading facilities drains into the ditch, but Roach stated that this is pumped to their settling ponds. I noted the existence of a portable pump and hoses confirming his allegation.*
- 6. Since final effluent discharge is to MSDGC sewers, no sample was taken.*

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CC ✓ Manager, Surv. Section, DWPC

Lawrence E. Ziemba
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